



Office of Executive Inspector General
for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Executive Inspector General
Launches its Internal Grant Review Initiative Team

CHICAGO, IL: – Today, the Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG) announced the creation of an internal Grant Review Initiative Team (GRIT). “We have assembled GRIT members so that we have a dedicated trained staff focusing on rooting out allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse involving state grants,” stated Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza.

GRIT members consist of six investigators from the OEIG’s Chicago and Springfield offices, with over 100 years of total investigative experience. GRIT members are: Supervising Investigators Donald Meeks and Brandon Myers and Investigators Amber Range, Tiffany Pryor-Wallace, Pat Foley, and Tammy Clark.*

In January 2012, the Illinois House Human Services and State Government Administration committees held a public hearing resulting from an OEIG joint investigation relating to a State service provider who received state grants amounting to over \$18 million, primarily from the Department of Children and Family Services. The OEIG found that, among other things, lack of State agency oversight allowed the service provider to receive funds for services not provided, or bill for the same services from multiple grant funds. “Millions of taxpayer dollars in the form of state grants are being awarded without sufficient accountability and oversight,” continued Mr. Meza, and, “although much of state grant money may be properly used for worthwhile causes, we must ensure that *all* state grant funds are used for the intended purpose, especially given the State’s fiscal crisis.”

*Biographies of the GRIT members are attached.

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Individuals are encouraged to report fraud, waste, and abuse involving State agencies, and should contact the OEIG at (866) 814-1113. The OEIG’s online complaint form may be found at <http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov>.

Created in 2003, the mission of the OEIG is to ensure accountability in State government by functioning as an independent, non-partisan State agency with responsibility, pursuant to State law, to investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct in relation to entities within its jurisdiction, including: more than 350 executive branch State agencies, boards, and commissions; nine State public universities; and the Chicago-area transit boards. In addition, the OEIG, in conjunction with the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, provides oversight to ethics training for the approximately 175,000 employees, appointees, and officials under OEIG jurisdiction.

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Donald Meeks has over 30 years of investigative experience, and serves as Supervising Investigator in the OEIG's Springfield office. Prior to joining the OEIG, he was Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and was responsible for managing investigations in four regions and two headquarters divisions. Mr. Meeks previously held supervisory positions at the U.S. Department of

Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, where he worked in investigations from 1988 to 2008. Mr. Meeks is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Brandon Myers serves as a Supervising Investigator in the OEIG's Chicago office. Prior to joining the OEIG, Dr. Myers served as a Security Site Supervisor at the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. He is the former Chief of Police with the Braidwood Police Department, and has extensive experience in all facets of law enforcement. Dr. Myers is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command and the Penn State Police Executive Development Course. Dr. Myers holds a Doctorate degree in Leadership, Master's degrees in Diplomacy and Criminal Justice, and a Bachelor's degree in Management.

Amber Range has been an investigator with the OEIG since 2005, and during that time has conducted numerous investigations, one of which resulted in a finding of improper management of State grant funds totaling over \$7 million. She has received training in interview techniques, procurement, and fraud detection, among other areas. Ms. Range is a graduate of Western Illinois University. She is a Certified Inspector General Investigator.

Tiffany Pryor-Wallace has been a member of the OEIG staff since 2007, and an investigator since 2009. She has investigated several matters involving alleged grant fraud. Ms. Pryor-Wallace has received training in interview techniques and procurement, among other areas. She holds a Master's degree in Legal Studies from the University of Illinois at Springfield and a Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University.

Pat Foley joined the OEIG as an investigator in July 2012 after completing 30 years in law enforcement, retiring as the Deputy Chief of the Willowbrook Police Department. Mr. Foley has served 20 years as an Assessment Team Leader for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), conducting assessments on over 50 law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Canada. Mr. Foley is experienced in grant application processes, as well as compliance monitoring and reporting. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command, and the Southern Police Institute. Mr. Foley holds a Master's degree from Governors State University and a Bachelor's degree from University of Illinois-Chicago.

Tammy Clark joined the OEIG as an investigator in January 2012. Ms. Clark has extensive training in procurement and contract fraud. She has financial investigative experience as a former Corporate Investigator with TransUnion and as an Executive Team Leader of Assets Protection with Target. Ms. Clark is an active member of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Ms. Clark earned a Bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement from Western Illinois University. She is a Certified Fraud Examiner.